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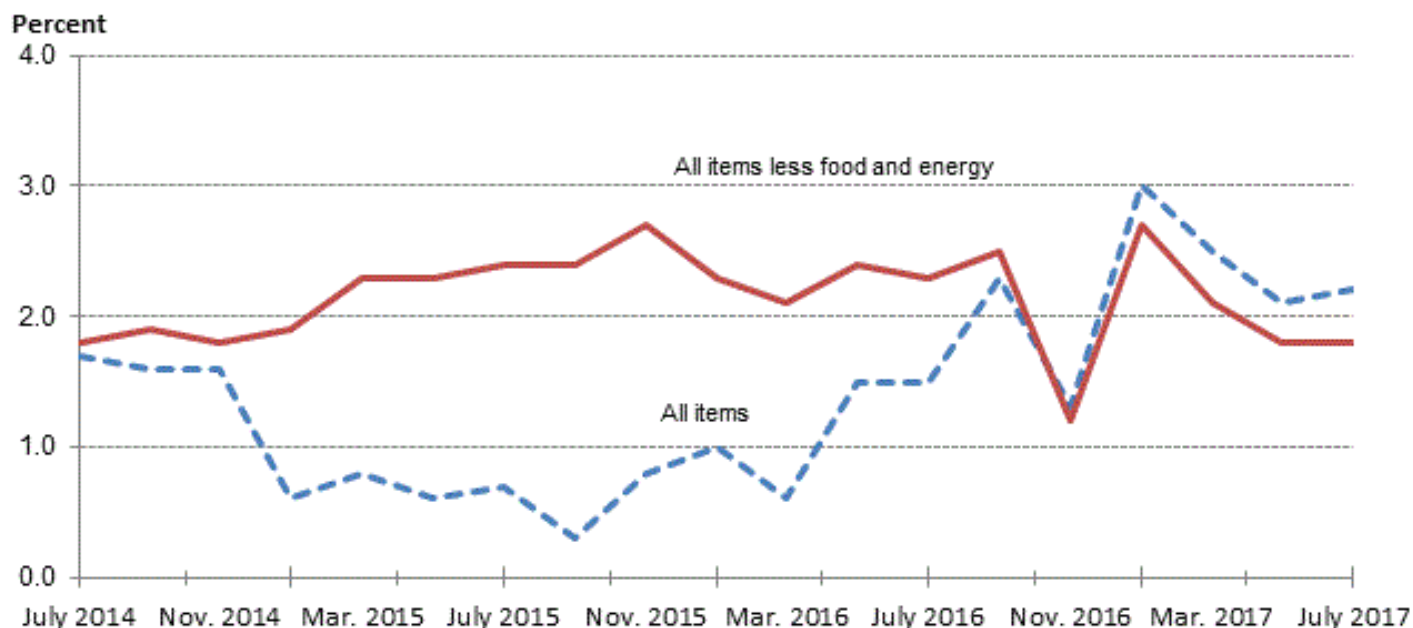
### **Consumer Price Index, Boston-Brockton-Nashua — July 2017**

#### **Area prices edged up 0.1 percent over two months; up 2.2 percent from a year ago**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua area edged up 0.1 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that the two-month increase was mainly due to higher prices paid by area consumers for food, up 1.0 percent, and to a lesser extent, higher prices within all items less food and energy, up 0.1 percent. Energy prices, down 1.9 percent, almost entirely offset the 2-month increase. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bimonthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Boston CPI-U rose 2.2 percent. The increase was largely attributable to higher prices within all items less food and energy, up 1.8 percent (See [chart 1](#)). Higher energy prices paid by area consumers, up 7.2 percent also contributed to the increase and to a lesser extent, food prices, up 1.5 percent over the year, contributed also.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, July 2014 - July 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## **Food**

Food prices edged up 1.0 percent since May mainly due to higher grocery store or food at home prices, up 0.9 percent. Restaurant prices, or food away from home, up 1.1 percent, also contributed to the increase.

Food prices increased 1.5 percent over the year, mainly due to higher restaurant prices, or food away from home, up 2.2 percent. Grocery store prices edged up 1.2 percent, also contributing to the increase.

## **Energy**

The energy index decreased 1.9 percent over the two months, mainly driven by lower gasoline prices down 3.2 percent. To a lesser extent, lower prices for electricity down 0.9 percent also contributed to the decrease. Higher prices for utility piped gas, up 1.9 percent partially offset the decrease.

Energy prices were up 7.2 percent from a year ago, largely attributable to higher electricity prices, up 9.7 percent. Higher prices for gasoline, up 4.0 percent, and utility (piped) gas up 11.0 percent, also contributed to the overall increase.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy edged up from May (0.1 percent). The increase was mainly attributable to shelter up 1.0 percent. This was driven by higher prices for owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 1.0 percent. Lower prices for apparel partially offset the increase, down 6.7 percent.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent, with higher shelter costs being the main driver of the increase up 2.3 percent. Within shelter, higher costs for owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 2.3 percent, led the increase. Higher recreation and other goods and services prices up 6.0 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively, also contributed to the overall increase.

## **CPI-W**

In July, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 265.002. The CPI-W was up 0.1 percent over two months and increased 2.2 percent over the year.

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**The September 2017 Consumer Price Index for Boston-Brockton-Nashua is scheduled to be released on Friday, October 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018**

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index. As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm).

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.









































The index measures price change from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; York County in Maine; and Windham County in Connecticut.






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**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	May 2017	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Jul. 2016	May 2017	Jun. 2017
All items .....		266.256		266.429	2.2	0.1	
All items (1967 = 100) .....		773.880		774.382			
Food and beverages .....		259.428		261.303	1.4	0.7	
Food .....		260.444		262.963	1.5	1.0	
Food at home .....		246.542	247.814	248.723	1.2	0.9	0.4
Food away from home .....		284.485		287.624	2.2	1.1	
Alcoholic beverages .....		252.275		246.428	0.0	-2.3	
Housing .....		270.157		271.961	2.8	0.7	
Shelter .....		319.588	321.591	322.742	2.3	1.0	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1) .....		329.836	331.388	332.077	2.7	0.7	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)(3) .....		339.191	341.209	342.436	2.3	1.0	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2)(3) .....		339.191	341.209	342.436	2.3	1.0	0.4
Fuels and utilities .....		264.662		263.351	9.2	-0.5	
Household energy .....		221.361	220.479	219.432	9.5	-0.9	-0.5
Energy services(1) .....		235.321	236.436	234.878	10.1	-0.2	-0.7
Electricity(1) .....		277.650	277.650	275.211	9.7	-0.9	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service(1) .....		154.001	156.959	156.959	11.0	1.9	0.0
Household furnishings and operations .....		128.787		127.719	-0.2	-0.8	
Apparel .....		146.570		136.726	1.9	-6.7	
Transportation .....		188.169		185.671	-0.1	-1.3	
Private transportation .....		186.794		184.364	0.0	-1.3	
Motor fuel .....		203.890	198.133	197.330	4.0	-3.2	-0.4
Gasoline (all types) .....		201.682	195.895	195.135	4.0	-3.2	-0.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....		195.299	189.443	188.751	4.0	-3.4	-0.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....		214.388	210.975	209.448	4.5	-2.3	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....		214.517	210.079	209.025	4.2	-2.6	-0.5
Medical care .....		635.502		639.112	0.6	0.6	
Recreation(6) .....		124.428		124.086	6.0	-0.3	
Education and communication(6) .....		158.366		158.204	1.2	-0.1	
Other goods and services .....		474.681		482.516	6.9	1.7	
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
Commodities .....		189.644		187.885	0.5	-0.9	
Commodities less food and beverages .....		152.954		149.827	-0.2	-2.0	
Nondurables less food and beverages .....		196.704		191.634	1.2	-2.6	
Durables .....		110.462		108.997	-1.9	-1.3	
Services .....		335.536		337.491	3.0	0.6	
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less shelter .....		248.025		247.032	2.1	-0.4	
All items less medical care .....		252.081		252.128	2.3	0.0	
Commodities less food .....		156.936		153.707	-0.2	-2.1	
Nondurables .....		227.137		225.340	1.3	-0.8	
Nondurables less food .....		199.751		194.645	1.1	-2.6	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	May 2017	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Jul. 2016	May 2017	Jun. 2017
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		371.639		372.233	3.8	0.2	
Services less medical care services.....		314.894		316.789	3.3	0.6	
Energy .....		212.173	209.178	208.245	7.2	-1.9	-0.4
All items less energy .....		275.211		275.790	1.8	0.2	
All items less food and energy .....		278.584		278.833	1.8	0.1	

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.